

THE BOOK WORLD

A horizontal line with arrows at both ends. A single point is marked on the line with a dot, and the number 0 is written below it.

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A horizontal line with arrows at both ends. A single point is marked with a solid dot in the center, and the letter 'a' is written directly below it.

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TEN YEARS WITH SPIRITUAL MEDIUMS. By FRANCIS

How do we suppose Mr. Fairchild accounts for all this? Way in the simplest way possible. He says:—

It was a little mysterious to me at that date, I confess; but in the light of after investigation it would not be at all singular to find, after a similar case, that the piano was not touched by me, nor any other person present was acquainted with a piece drawn from the piano apparently by a luminous medium; for, knowing it in observation, the superhuman requisites of previous impressions appertaining to these states of the nervous system, I should only conclude that the medium was not in the room at the date, and that it had sprung up spontaneously under natural nervous excitation.

After that nothing under heaven can surprise us. It is so much harder to believe the statement in the last paragraph than to accept the most preposterous stories of the most fantastical medium, that we cannot safely predict that Mr. Fairchild's explanation, if by any stress of the imagination it can be aided that, will be generally received as satisfactory. To us it seems a marvel that the piano should play at all, and we want a large amount of evidence before we accept the fact as true. But if the time comes when with our own eyes we shall behold that spectacle, it will not be a satisfactory explanation of the mystery that four people in the room are acquainted with the air which the piano pours out nor do we think it possible to account for the phenomena by alleging that the medium, in some previous stage of his existence (if he had heard the air and that it had been reproduced by nervous excitement. We can

Pharao King who was bent on the destruction of the Jews, quickly said to the King was day, "If it please the King, let it be written that they may be destroyed; I will pay 10,000 talents of silver to the hands of those that have charge of the business," turning it into the King's treasures.¹⁷ This is one of the first instances of bribery on record. Hannas must have had a hot temper, and a very large income, since the sum referred to would amount in modern coinage to something like \$15,000,000. All this for the pleasure of butchering the Jews.

The immense quantities of the precious metals which were used in those prodigal days, is shown by the following passage from Herodotus:—

And there belongs to the temple in Babylon an enormous quantity of a large golden image of the god; and near it is placed a large golden table, and the pedestal and throne are gold; and, as the Chaldeans say, these things were made for 800 talents of gold. And there was at that time a statue of twelve cubits of solid gold.

No wonder it excited the envy of all who saw it. Darius Hystaspes wanted it, but did not dare to take it. Xerxes has no such foolish scruples, for he confiscated it: at once and slew the priest who stood guard over it.

The ability of the ancients to work in precious metals is well proven by this further extract from the same writer:—

This is the sacred place adorned, and there are also in it many private offerings. These ornaments, made of gold, silver, and precious stones, consist of earrings, clips and earring-ropes of money gold, constituted a property of immense value. On the top of the same altar there were golden statues, or images

age, probably from the gospel of the Hebrews—
"Jesus said: For the sake of the weak I became
weak; for the sake of the hungry I hungered; for
the sake of the thirsty I thirsted." This saying is
so beautiful and so illustrative of the spirit of
our Lord that we are ready to believe in its genu-
ineness. Again these words are quoted by both
Lutement and Oregon—"seek those things that
are great and little things will be added to you;
and seek ye heavenly things and the things of this
world will be added to you."

The book is of exceeding interest to the theo-
logical student and will be read by the ordinary
scholar with more than usual delight. The style
of the writer is clear and forcible, and one reads
on and on, scarcely knowing how fast he is travel-
ling, until at last, to his surprise, he comes to the
word "finis."

CHATS ABOUT NOVELS.

The growler read "Ralph Wilcox's World"
(Henry Hall & Co.) from cover to cover, and then
he laid it down, with a smile expressive of both
defeat and satisfaction spread itself over his face.
"There is nothing to find fault with in that book,"
he said with a sigh of regret. Knowing what a
terrible sacrifice this concession must have seen
to one friend we restrained the impulse to shout,
"A victory at last!" "Ralph Wilcox's World" is
not, perhaps, a diamond of the first water, but it
is a perfect jewel of its kind. It is written by Mrs.

much about "Fannyson." "Possibly," said I, have read much and thought more, and cannot consent to confine my opinions to the received standard of merit." Such frankness is charming in one so young, and the lover is duly impressed. He likes a girl who thinks for herself, and possibly will think for him in time to come.

The story is made interesting by local allusions, but is always pleasant to be able to recall the scenes one reads about.

"HARRY BLOUNT."

Good books for boys are so rare nowadays that we hail with delight Philip Gilbert Hamerton's "Harry Blount" (Roberts Brothers), an advance copy of which lies before us. Story book writing is hardly in Mr. Hamerton's line and this volume has more faults than those he criticizes for "grow up." However, its tone is healthy and quiet and the style attractive. Harry Blount is a very human boy, neither a saint nor sinner. His adventures on land and sea are not impossible and are very graphically told. Mr. Hamerton's artistic touch is readily recognized, sometimes he gets beyond the depth of the average boy, but not often enough to be disagreeable. Harry goes to school, as every civilized boy should, but does not hurt himself with study. The book he prefers is the book of nature; that he studies well. Boating, hunting, and playing are amusements that can be and in the open air he is master of. How such a boy could enjoy a lesson over some of our Western

to her not to fold him in her arms again. No, she conquered the longings of her heart and stretched him from afar. And how Dick loved the nervous fellow who paid him so well for keeping her safe; little did he think that they were twin brothers. What a beautiful picture the gypsy mother made as she stood on the river bank, cradling her great, black eyes after her gentleman son, and how her heart went out to Dick, who had been with her in all her wanderings! It was hard for the tramp woman to settle herself down and live under a roof, but she did it for Dick's sake and to be near her other boy.

Of course the truth comes to light at last; but we go quietly they all take it! There is no scene. The gypsy woman's heart beats wildly under her downy skin; but she has been expecting this end, and does not faint when it comes. It is the most of a surprise to the two boys; but they also take it easily. The elegant and Hon. Mr. Ross acknowledges his wife before the world; but he does not seem to love her nor she him. Each looks upon the other as a creature of another species—something to be avoided. Richard believes the best, but he is a courier. They all go into Scotland to the old place at Eskdale. Myra is never happy again. The stately old house smothers her. Lord and Lady Kaxline are kindness itself; but their attentions oppress her. One day she is missed from the house. Her boys go in search of her, and find her lying, weak and exhausted, under the trees in the forest. She smiled just once on the

Reynald is a distinguished professor in the University of Letters of Aix. In the compass of 300 years he has given an admirable sketch of English history during a century and a half of her constitutional existence. The events which led to independence of the United States are summarized with especial care, though it is needless say that American history was not his strongest point. M. Reynald is a good deal of trouble. Thus an old billar name has to be guessed under the designation of "Banker's Hill." Sias Deane is honored an additional "de," and Rutledge with a commendatory "d." Again, it is strange to find the author stating that George III. named as Secretary for the Colonies "a distinguished officer, Lord Saville, who had assumed the name of Lord George of the same name." Lord George Saville (his was his proper style) was chiefly "disturbed" for his disgraceful conduct at Minden. Reynald changed his name, he was now Lord Germaine, though subsequently created comte Saville, not without murmurs among peers at the elevation to their order of a man who had incurred the stigma of cowardice.

FROM SENATOR PATTERSON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

would go on in the work.

The growler read "Ralph Wilton's We

He said it down, while a smile expressive of defeat and satisfaction spread itself over his face. "There is nothing to find fault with in that," he said with a sigh of regret. Knowing what terrible sacrifice this concession must have cost to our friend we restrained the impulse to shout "A victory at last!" "Ralph Walston's Word," not perhaps, a diamond of the first water, but is a perfect jewel of its kind. It is written by